

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**

(Please fill in the highlighted areas)

all sections (IA, IB, IC, etc.) must be addressed or the application will be considered invalid

I.

- A. Applicant Name: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- B. Mailing Address: 4600 Giant Springs Road
- C. City: Great Falls State: MT Zip: 59405
Telephone: 454-5853 E-mail: ggrisak@mt.gov
- D. Contact Person: Grant Grisak & Jason Mullen
Address if different from Applicant: Same
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____
- E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if other than Applicant): Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Mailing Address: Same
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

- A. Project Name: Wegner Creek fish barrier – westslope cutthroat trout and Rocky Mountain sculpin conservation.
River, stream, or lake: Wegner Creek
Location: Township: 15N Range: 2W Section: 36
Latitude: 47.01274 Longitude: 111.80035 *within project (decimal degrees)*
County: Lewis & Clark
- B. Purpose of Project:
Create a physical barrier to isolate westslope cutthroat trout and Rocky Mountain sculpin in 4.6 miles of headwater stream for conservation purposes.
- C. Brief Project Description:

In 2014-15, MFWP acquired the Whitetail Prairie addition to the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area near Holter Lake. Of the nearly 5 sections of land in the acquisition, Wegner Creek flows through three of the sections. Wegner Creek originates upstream of these sections on land owned by Sieben Livestock Company and the BLM. Surveys of the upper watershed discovered vibrant populations of eastern brook trout, rainbow trout and rocky mountain sculpin. The survey also discovered a natural rock chute on state-owned land that could be modified to create a physical barrier to isolate fish upstream. MFWP met with a blasting contractor on site and determined a vertical barrier of approximately 6 feet could be blasted in the rock chute to create a physical barrier.

The drainage upstream of the proposed barrier site consists of 4.6 miles of stream habitat. In 2016 MFWP met with Sieben Livestock and BLM officials to discuss the potential of developing a westslope cutthroat trout conservation project in the headwaters of Wegner Creek. Both parties agreed. Sieben Livestock agreed to sign a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) with MFWP that outlines obligations of both parties, once the barrier is installed.

The BLM is a signatory of the Montana Cutthroat Trout Conservation Agreement, which recommends implementing conservation projects such as this.

After the development of this barrier, fish upstream would be removed with rotenone piscicide and the stream restocked with genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout from a donor source. Rocky Mountain sculpin would be salvaged from the stream prior to the rotenone application and replaced afterwards. The fish community would consist of westslope cutthroat trout and Rocky Mountain sculpin.

The blasting, rotenone application and restocking would be analyzed through a MEPA EA.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated:

Barrier site is approximately 486 ft². There are 4.6 miles of stream that would be isolated as westslope cutthroat trout and Rocky Mountain sculpin habitat.

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ \$5,000

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ In-kind \$
(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ \$10,000 In-kind \$
(attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

F. Total Project Cost: \$ \$15,000

Attach itemized (line item) budget – see template

On August 30, 2016 a blasting contractor met on site to discuss the project. Access to the site is by maintenance roads either through the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area (12.5 miles) or by Sterling Ranch maintenance roads (11.6 miles). The last 0.75 mile of travel is through an historic logging area with no road. The contractor will need to pioneer a new road for 0.75 mile to reach the construction site. In any case, mobilization of an excavator, drilling rig and dump truck over unimproved roads for 12 miles requires a large amount of mobilization time and cost. Drilling is expected to take 1 day, blasting and inspection/clean-up of unexploded ordinance would take 1 day, and 1 day for an excavator to remove overburden from the site. The contractor has estimated \$13,000 for mobilization, labor, materials and equipment to construct the barrier plus 15% (\$2,000) contingency for unforeseen expenses associated with working in a remote area.

- G. Attach specific project plans, detailed sketches, plan views, photographs, maps, evidence of landowner consent, evidence of public support and fish biologist support, and/or other information necessary to evaluate the merits of the project. If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete supplemental questionnaire (fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc).
- H. Attach land management and maintenance plans that will ensure protection of the reclaimed area.

III. PROJECT BENEFITS*

- A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?:

Westslope cutthroat trout and Rocky Mountain sculpin.

- B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?:

Two native fish species will be isolated in 4.6 miles of habitat upstream of the proposed barrier.

- C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?:

Westslope cutthroat trout would likely thrive in this habitat. Eggs and sperm from these fish would be used to develop or enhance other westslope cutthroat trout populations in central Montana. The benefits of Rocky Mountain sculpin are unknown. Angling is possible in this area, but the site is located 11.6 miles from the nearest public trailhead, so it is unlikely.

- D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?:

The project is not likely to change public fishing opportunity over what is presently available. The site is very remote, it is 11.6 miles from the nearest public trailhead, and is surrounded by private land on three sides.

- E. The project agreement includes a 20-year maintenance commitment. Please discuss your ability to meet this commitment.

The project should be maintenance free. Because it is located on MFWP land and is accessible by the area fisheries staff for monitoring and maintenance

- F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?:

This is not a habitat degradation issue. The presence of thriving non-native trout in this stream suggests the habitat is in high quality to sustain trout.

G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?:

The public will benefit by having a secure population of westslope cutthroat trout and Rocky Mountain sculpin for conservation purposes.

H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):

No.

I. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site?: (explain):

No.

J. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?:

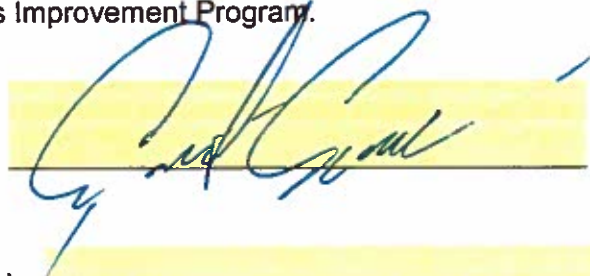
No.

Each approved project sponsor must enter into a written agreement with the Department specifying terms and duration of the project.

IV. AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Applicant Signature:



Date:

11/14/2016

Sponsor (if applicable):

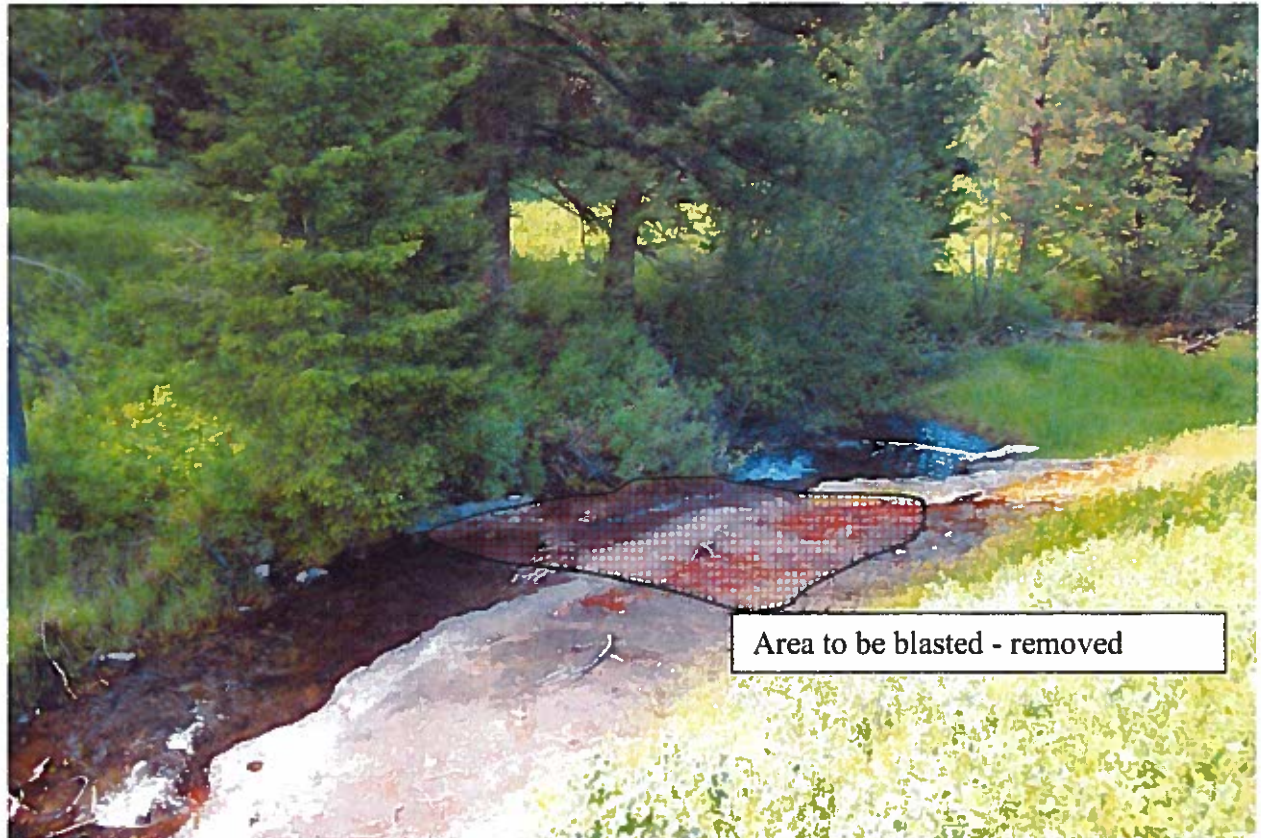
***Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.**

**Mail To: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Habitat Protection Bureau
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701**

**E-mail To: Michelle McGree
mmcgree@mt.gov
(electronic submissions MUST be signed)**

**Incomplete or late applications will be rejected and returned to applicant.
Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.**

*****Applications may be submitted at anytime, but must be signed and received by the Future Fisheries Program Officer in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.*****



BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Both tables must be completed or the application will be returned

[illegible]

BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

		\$	-			\$	-			\$	-
	Sub-Total	\$	-			\$	-			\$	-
	TOTALS	\$	15,000.00			\$	5,000.00			\$	10,000.00
											15,000.00

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

All of the columns in the budget table and the matching contribution table MUST be completed appropriately or the application will be invalid. Please see the example budget sheet for additional clarification.

*Units = feet, hours, inches, etc. Do not use lump sum unless there is no other way to describe the costs.

**Can include in-kind materials. Justification for in-kind labor (e.g. hourly rates used for calculations). Describe here or in text.

Reminder: Government salaries cannot be used as in-kind match

***The Review Panel suggests that design and oversight costs associated with a proposed project not exceed 15% of the total project budget. If design and oversight costs are in excess of 15%, applications must include a minimum of two competitive bids for the cost of undertaking the project.

****The Review Panel recommends a maximum fencing cost of \$1.50 per foot. Additional costs may be the responsibility of the applicant and/or partners.

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS (do not include requested funds)

CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND SERVICE	IN-KIND CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
Montana Trout Unlimited	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Northwestern Energy - Missouri River mitigation	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	N
Missouri River Flyfishers	\$ -	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 5,800.00	Y
Pat Barnes Missouri River Trout Unlimited	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	Y
	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	Y
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTALS	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	

Archie Johnson Contracting, LLC

3111 Vaughn Road
Great Falls, MT 59404
Phone 406-453-5776 Fax 406-453-9808
ajblast@prodigy.net
bevrock@yahoo.com

PROPOSAL

10/4/16

Montana FWP
Grant Grisake
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-454-5853

PROJECT : Wegner Creek Fish Barrier

Archie Johnson Contracting, LLC will furnish all labor, materials & equipment to Drill, Blast & Excavate an area 18 ft x 27 ft x 4 ft deep.

LS

\$15,000.00

Archie M. Johnson



Grisak, Grant

Subject: FW: Emailing: WCT CCAA Sieben Livestock Wegner Creek Oct 18, 2016.docx

-----Original Message-----

From: Chase Hibbard [<mailto:chase@siebenlivestock.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2016 10:25 AM

To: Grisak, Grant

Cc: cooper@siebenlivestock.com

Subject: RE: Emailing: WCT CCAA Sieben Livestock Wegner Creek Oct 18, 2016.docx

Hi Grant,

Thanks for your response.

Sieben Live Stock is in support of re-establishing Westslope Cutthroat Trout in Wegner Creek as contemplated. We understand that a MEPA environmental assessment needs to be completed and money raised for creating a migration barrier before this project can be undertaken.

We will be willing to sign an appropriate CCCA when the project is ready to begin.

Chase Hibbard, President
Sieben Live Stock Co



October 16, 2016

Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter
Chapter No. 055
PO Box 275
Helena, MT 59624-0275

Grant Grisak
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405

Dear Mr. Grisak,

The Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is providing our support for the westslope cutthroat trout conservation project in Wegner Creek. We are pledging \$100 toward the construction of a fish barrier. We are also willing to submit an application to Montana TU for a Chapter Mini Grant for \$4,000 toward this project.

As you know Montana TU is a signatory of the Montana Cutthroat Trout Conservation Agreement and we feel it is important to act on opportunities such as this to develop conservation populations of westslope cutthroat trout in Montana.

At your request we will provide a check to you or your contractor to complete the project. We have approximately 500 members in our chapter and would appreciate opportunities for them to assist with the implementation of the project.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,

Lee Ricks
President



Delivering a Bright Future

6700 Rainbow Dam Rd
Great Falls, MT 59404

November 10, 2016

Grant Grisak
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405

Dear Mr. Grisak,

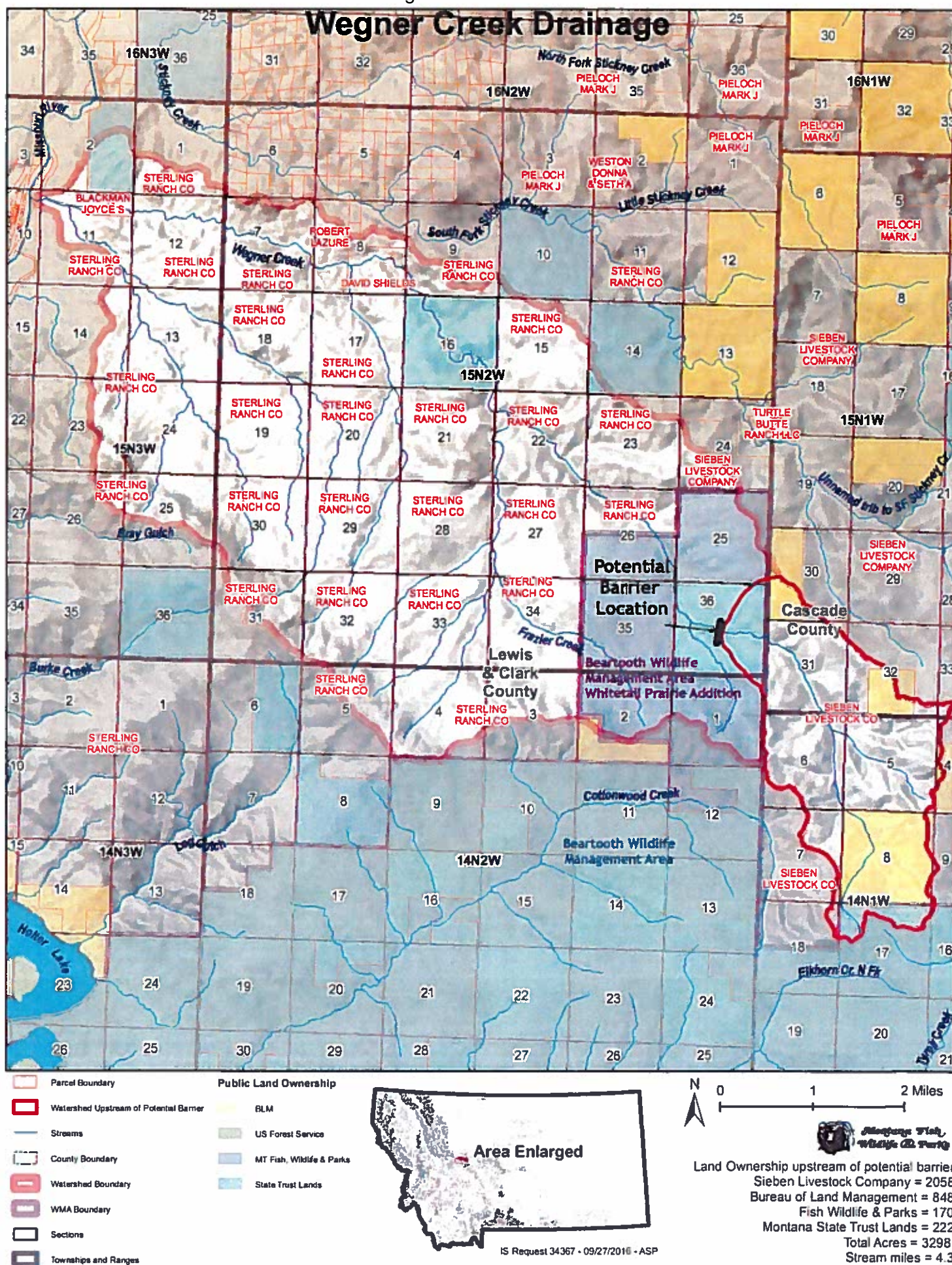
The annual meeting of the Missouri River Technical Advisory Committee for FERC license 2188 was held in Great Falls on November 9, 2016. I'm pleased to inform you that your proposal for the Wegner Creek fish barrier was funded for the full request of \$6,800, which includes \$5,800 for the construction and \$1,000 for a cultural survey of the project site. This looks to be an excellent project to continue the great progress that MDFWP and its partners have made in restoring populations of native westslope cutthroat trout in northcentral Montana.

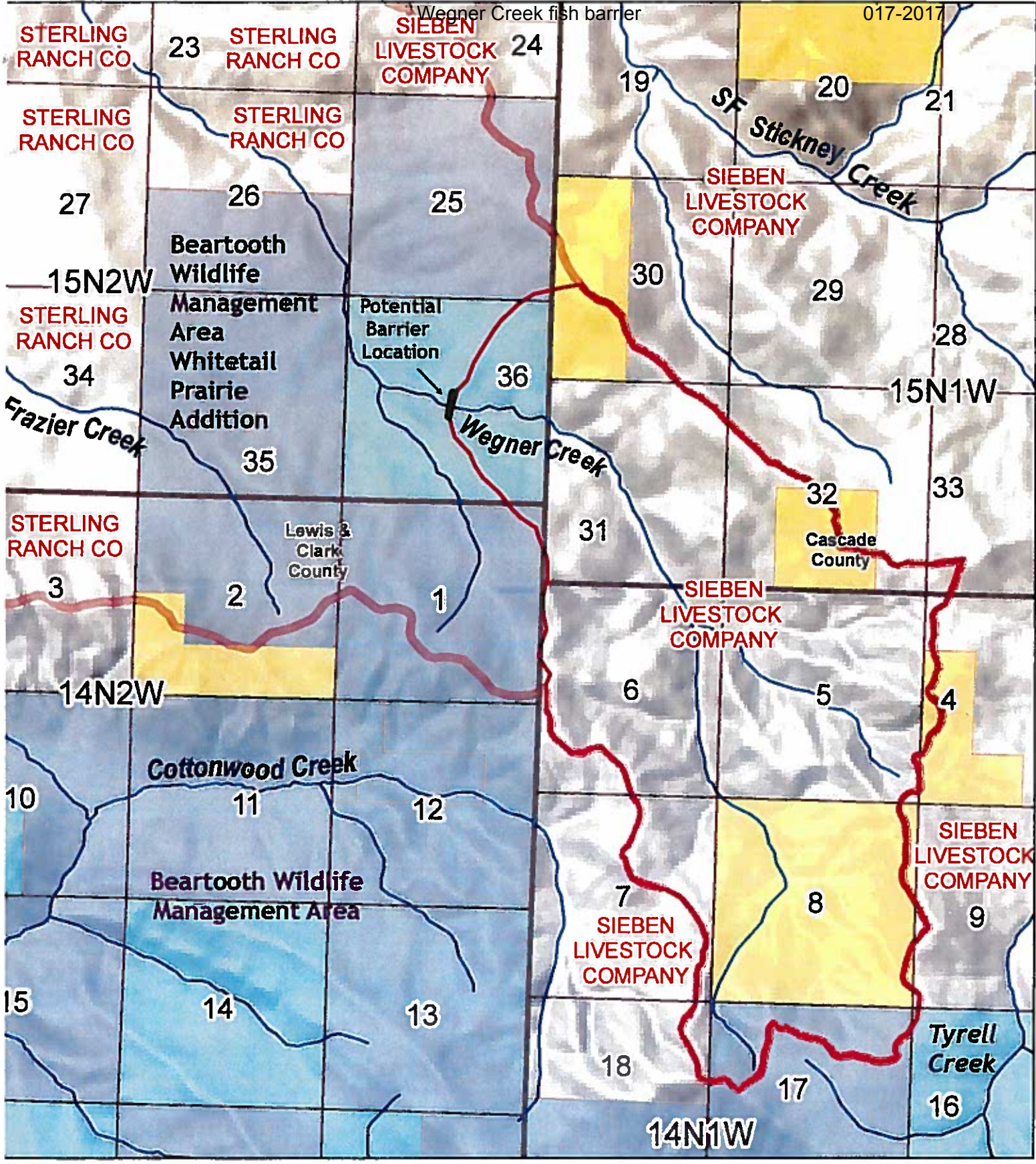
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

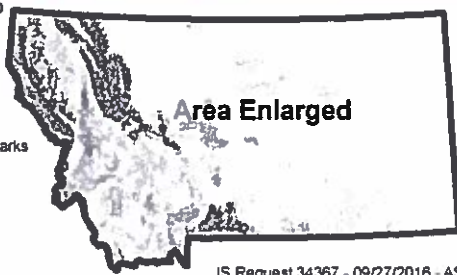

Steve Leathe

Hydro Compliance Professional
NorthWestern Energy
Chair, Missouri River Fisheries TAC





- Streams
 - County Boundary
 - Parcel Boundary
 - Watershed Upstream of Potential Barrier
 - Wagner Creek Watershed Boundary
 - Sections
 - Townships and Ranges
-
- Public Land Ownership**
- BLM
 - US Forest Service
 - MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
 - State Trust Lands



N
0 0.5 1 Miles

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Land Ownership upstream of potential barrier
 Sieben Livestock Company = 2058
 Bureau of Land Management = 848
 Fish Wildlife & Parks = 170
 Montana State Trust Lands = 222
Total Acres = 3298
Stream miles = 4.3

